Reform in telecom services

†2498. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority of India had made recommendation several times for reforms in telecom services in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the names of organizations for which recommendations were made to effect reforms in telephone services during the year 2002-03 till date alongwith the dates when these recommendations were made;

(c) whether the reforms have been implemented in the services on the basis of these recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the authority responsible for the implementation of reforms in services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (d) Under Section 11(I)(a) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997 Telecom Regulatory Authority of India can make recommendations, either suo-moto or on a request from the licensor on issues which *inter alia* include measures to facilitate competition and promote efficiency in the operation of Telecommunication Services so as to facilitate growth of such services. The details of recommendations made by TRAI since 2002-03 till date are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The main thrust of these recommendations has, in general, been to introduce competion to achieve objectives of greater network roll out, availability of better quality of services at lower prices, facilating usage of modern technologies to improve range, reach and quality of service and maintaining up level playing field among different service providers. Major initiatives taken by the Government after due consideration of the recommendation of TRAI are as follows:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1. Opening of International Long Distance Service for voice w.e.f 01.04.2002.
2. Introduction of Unified Access Service License Regime in November 2003.
3. License Fee for Infrastructure Provder (IP) Category-II reduced from 15% to 6% and Bank Guarantee for IP Category-II reduced from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 5 crores.
4. Guidelines for merger of Basic, Cellular and Unified Access Service License in a given service area issued on 21st February 2004.
5. Guidelines for Universal Support Policy was issued which came into effect from 1st April 2002 and subsequently Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 was amended in December 2003 to give statutory status to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF).

Statement

Details of Recommendation made by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India From 2002-03 (1st April, 2002)

S. No.	Title of the Recommendation	Date of recommendation
1	2	3
1.	Recommendations on Licensing of 'Receive only VSAT' Service	07-06-2002
2.	Recommendations on Centralized Regulation for Closed user Groups (CUG)/Private Networks	25-06-2002
3.	Recommendations on de-licensing of Radio Spectrum in band of 2.4 GHz for Wireless LAN (802.11b) applications	17-07-2002
4.	Recommendations on Growth of Internet in the Country	09-09-2002
5.	Recommendations to facilitate VSAT Operations	10-12-2002
6.	Recommendations on issues concerning Public Mobile Radio Trunked Service (PMRTS)	07-01-2003

1	2	3
7.	Recommendations for use of certain IP devices for providing Internet Telephony Serivces	04-02-2003
8.	Recommendations on issue of Fresh Licenses to Cellular Mobile Service Providers (CMSPs)	21-02-2003
9.	Recommendations on Unified Licensing Regime	27-10-2003
10.	Recommendation on "WLL (M) Issues pertaining to TRAI based on Hon'bnle TDSAT's order"	27-10-2003
11.	Recommendation, on Numbering Issues as a follow up of Unified Access Services Licence Migration	23-12-2003
12.	Recommendations on Intra-Circle Mergers & Acquisition Guidelines	30-01-2004
13.	Recommendations, on waiving off of License Fee and Bank Guarantee for Infrastrucutre Provider-II	30-01-2004
14.	Interim Recommendations on Conditional Access System (CAS)	23-02-2004
15.	Recommendations for allowing ISPs to lay coper cable in the last mile	19-03-2004
16.	Interim Recommendations, on Private FM Radio Broadcasting	06-04-2004
17.	Recommendations on Accelerating Growth of Internet & broadband Penetration	29-04-2004
18.	Draft Recommendations on Unified LIcensing and Supplementary Note to draft Recommendations	06-08-2004 & 09-08-2004
19.	Recommendations on Establishment of the office of the ombudsman for the Telecommunication Sector	10-08-2004
20.	Recommendations on Licensing Isue Relating to 2nd Phase of Private FM Radio Broadcasting	11-08-2004

1	2	3
21.	Recommendations on Issues relating to Broadcasting and Distribution of TV Channels	01-10-2004
22.	Recommendations on Licensing Issues relating to 2nd Phase of Private FM Radio Broadcasting— Response to observations made by Govt.	19-11-2004
23.	Recommendations on Licensing Issues Relating to Community Radio	09-12-2004
24.	Recommendations on Unified Licensing	13-01-2005

Indifferent attitude of BSNL in North-Eastern Region

2499. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that BSNL is not giving contract licenses to unemployed educated youths in the North-East ignoring unemployment issue amongst the educated youths;

(b) whether it is a fact that such youths are not having any earlier working certificates in this regard, for which they are being ignored;

(c) in what manner Government propose to solve the unemployment problems amongst the educated educated youths of BSNL; and

(d) whether the CGM, Assam circle is not aware about the indifferent attitude on the part of BSNL which is hurting the sentiment of the local youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, guidelines of BSNL for giving contract licenses are uniform throughout the country which do require some work experience.

(c) Group 'C' and 'D' posts are filled up from the local population only. Further employment is generated through allotment of P.C.Os., which is on demand.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.